

REMARKS

Claims 65-67 are new and are fully supported by the specification. For example, the specification describes amino acid fragments of Env including amino acid residues 680-700, 37-130, 211-289, and 488-530. (Specification at 36, lines 20-24.) These fragments contain the amino acid residues recited in claims 65-67. Accordingly, the amendment adds no new matter.

Applicants thank Examiner Parkin for the courtesy of the Interview of October 7, 2003. During the Interview, applicants traversed the rejection of claims 35-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants pointed out that the specification contains the complete sequence of HIV-1ELI, and identifies conserved and non-conserved regions by sequence comparison to other known HIV-1 viruses (e.g., Fig. 3). The Examiner indicated that applicants' August 25, 2003, Amendment may raise new matter issues, and suggested that the claims be amended to recite that Env comprises an HIV-1ELI-specific epitope.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's suggestion that the applicants' August 25, 2003, Amendment may raise new matter issues. The specification contains the complete sequence of HIV-1ELI, and identifies conserved and non-conserved regions by sequence comparison to other known HIV-1 viruses (e.g., Fig. 3). The specification further describes amino acid fragments of Env including amino acid residues 680-700, 37-130, 211-289, and 488-530. These fragments contain the amino acid residues recited in amended claims 35-40 and in new claims 65-67.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

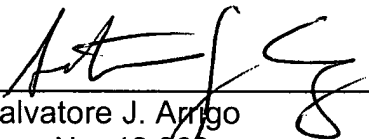
In the event that the Examiner disagrees, he is invited to call the undersigned to discuss any outstanding issues remaining in this application in order to expedite prosecution.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 12, 2003

By: 

Salvatore J. Arrigo

Reg. No. 46,063

Tel: 202-408-4160

Fax.: 202-408-4400

E-mail: arrigos@finnegan.com

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com